

Life tough, but fair, in Pipe City

By Steven LaVoie
Tribune librarian

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RICK HEEGER'S BARBER loves to reminisce. During a haircut, he heard the story of Pipe City, a depression-era encampment of unemployed men at the foot of 19th Avenue in East Oakland.

Heeger became fascinated by the story, which he sees as an allegory for today's tough economic times. He is now producing a documentary film about Pipe City for his graduate thesis in broadcasting at San Francisco State University.

In December 1932, during the depths of the Great Depression, unemployed men took shelter inside surplus lengths of sewer pipe belonging to the American Concrete and Steel Pipe Company on the estuary. The company allowed the men to winter in their makeshift concrete homes on company land.

Soon, Pipe City — which the residents, dubbed "Miseryites," called "Miseryville" — became home to about 203 men. To qualify for a pipe to sleep in, a man had to be jobless, homeless, hungry and scruffy — but absolutely not helpless.

Miseryites built their unique settlement into a model of cooperation, self-reliance and dignity. Under the doctrine of mutual aid, the men divided into 18 "sections," each of which foraged for food and provisions for the others.

"What impresses me most," Heeger remarks, "is that they were able to form a community. These men could find resources, and worked not to make money for themselves, but to feed each other."

Residents formed a community government led by out-of-work construction crew chief Dutch Jensen, self-proclaimed "Prince of the Chiselers." Jensen negotiated with the owners of the pipes and with Oakland city officials to get squatter's rights. Meanwhile, a volunteer "chief of police" enforced Pipe City's single precept — that a man act with self-respect. Violations included drunkenness, uncleanness

and subversion. Ejection was the common penalty.

Accounts of the colorful encampment made the papers and movie-house newsreels across the country. Muckraking naturalist author Upson Sinclair based his short story "Co-Op" on a visit to Pipe City.

The concern and charity of the East Bay began to pour in. Oakland mayor Fred Morcom found financing to turn the Exposition Building into a shelter for the Miseryites. That offer — like all other "government hand-outs" — was flatly refused.

In March 1933, a buyer was finally found for the acres of surplus pipe. Seasonal rains were subsiding. It was time for Pipe City to disband.

"There'll be no hunger marching or other demonstrations when we leave," Jensen told the Oakland Tribune. "We haven't any theories about anything. We were just hungry and cold and shelterless — and we've scrambled around and got food and fire and a place to sleep for 200 men who valued their freedom of action, didn't want to take orders, but didn't want to starve or freeze either. That's all there is to it."

In a letter to the Oakland City Council telling of the demise of Pipe City, Jensen concluded, "May a Pipe City never again be necessary."

Today, large numbers of homeless are again seeking shelter in outdoor camps. But a new Pipe City might be impossible in today's social climate.

"I don't think anything like that would be tolerated today," Heeger said.

To complete his documentary, Heeger is anxious to find men who lived at Pipe City, or relatives of Miseryites. He can be reached at (415) 368-4411.

Steven LaVoie's Time Capsule column looks back every Sunday on the East Bay's past. Have a column idea? Please call Steve at 510-645-2745, or write to the Oakland Tribune, P.O. Box 24424, Oakland 94623.

Alabama Family Has 'Luck' In Arriving at 'Pipe City'

TRIB D APR 11 1933

By ANNE CLARK.

From Gadsden, Alabama, to an unexpected haven in the "City Hall" quest of employment.

5, in their continent-wide trek of the unemployed was a long trail for the Maddux family, who have been "riding the rods" and hitchhiking the highways with their five children, penniless, in search of work since last September, with California as the goal of their dreams.

"I worked for 10 years as a tenant on the same farm in Alabama," Maddux explained the family 'exodus'. "Last year the flood ruined the whole crop. Then the owner lost his farm and we had to leave. "When we rode the freight trains, the brakemen didn't put us off—instead, they helped us and gave us food. In the towns we were helped along by the Salvation Army. I got three days work along the way. It took us seven months to get here, but my wife had a map and kept us going for California, where we hoped things would be better, and I could get a job picking fruit. "But we'd never heard anything like this Pipe City. Al lthese men, out of work themselves, turning to help strangers and tell them to stop and rest a few days. I tell you, we've had good luck! If all California's like this, I'm going to hope for a job at last."

"We've had good luck—people have been good to us," says Charles Maddux, with an optimism rather strange in view of their plight. "But the best luck of all was when 'Mayor' Dutch Jensen saw us walking down the railroad tracks last Saturday night, got one of his followers to give up a tent for us, found food for us somewhere, and made us welcome."

Maddux, 44, is accompanied by his wife, Lulu, 38, and their five children, Calvin, 17, Fred, 13, Kenneth, 10, Rose, 8, and Henry Ford,

Pipe City to End Career With Sunday Reception

TRIB D APR 7 - 1933

Oakland Officials Accept 'Mayor' Dutch Jensen's Invitation to Ceremony

Pipe City — Oakland's world-famous "incorporation" of concrete dwellers, which will become "ghost city" on April 17, will mark the end of its existence Sunday with a farewell reception, to be attended by Oakland city officials and citizens.

This development in the colorful career of the city of the unemployed near the estuary came this morning when "Mayor" Dutch Jensen, head of Pipe City, reported he had been assured that his invitation to Oakland city officials to attend a program will be accepted by many of them.

A 42-piece band of the Athens Lodge of Elks, No. 70, a Negro organization, will play; "Mayor" Jensen will make a "farewell address" to his army of unemployed and to the City of Oakland; city officials of Oakland are expected to respond.

"We have no plans as to what we are going to do," Jensen said. "Most of the 135 men are too old to join the government reforestation workers. We will simply clean Pipe City up in shipshape fashion, tear down the huts and leave everything as we found it. After that, it's every man for himself."

The "mayor" said that he, with "Police Chief" Tom Gallagher and Joe Larkin, commissary chief, might remain in Oakland if jobs were obtainable or if they could obtain a vacant house rent-free.

In his letter to the Oakland City Council, telling of the farewell reception, Jensen said:

"Pipe City, as you know, has become internationally known, and without discredit to the City of Oakland. Unemployed men not entitled to municipal aid, we have at all times tried to conduct ourselves as good citizens. We are proud of our success to this end.

"Whether the men in Pipe City remain in Oakland or go elsewhere, they will always feel deeply grateful to your city for its friendliness. Pipe City is to become 'Ghost City' and Oakland is destined to become a great metropolis.

"May a Pipe City never again be necessary."

Council Invited To Pipe City's Farewell Party

"DUTCH" JENSEN, "mayor of Pipe City," today extended to the Oakland City Council an invitation to attend the farewell reception at Pipe City Sunday, April 9, at 2 p. m.

The chief executive of the unemployed colony living in pipes at the foot of Nineteenth Avenue declared that the colony will officially go out of existence April 17, although the farewell reception will be held April 9. Jensen thanked the city of Oakland for courtesies extended to the citizens of Pipe City and pointed out that the latter have always tried to conduct themselves as good citizens of Oakland.

"May a Pipe City never again be necessary," concluded Jensen.

'PIPE CITY' WILL GIVE UP ITS CHARTER

TRIB D MAR 15 1933

Home of 200 Unemployed
'Disincorporating' as Cold
Weather Is Nearing End

By NANCY BARR MAVITY

Oakland's famous "Pipe City," home for the Winter of 200 unemployed, is "disincorporating."

By an agreement between "Mayor" Dutch Jansen, leader of the dwellers, and J. A. Clark, office manager of the American Concrete and Steel Pipe Company at the foot of Nineteenth Avenue, disbanding of the group will be complete in another month—partly because the company needs the pipes and partly because warmer weather and hope of improved economic conditions are leading the jobless out of Winter quarters.

"We appreciate the hospitality of the pipe company, and there are no hard feelings about our notice to leave," "Mayor" Jansen said today. "Our inhabitants will have five weeks in which to hunt jobs while still living in the pipe colony. Four or five members are leaving daily, and we discourage any new re-

crusts to our community. From a maximum of 203, we are already down to 175. We're all looking for jobs, myself most of all."

WELL ORGANIZED.

Pipe City, in the four months of its existence, has furnished a curious and striking combination of extreme individualism and effective organization under Jansen's leadership. Jansen himself—huge, burley, decisive—has guarded the liberties of his followers against all interference, well meaning or disciplinary. At the same time, he divided his motley crew into sections under 18 captains reporting to himself as "Mayor," and as a result established a camp free from all sickness, "laid down the law" against political "soap boxing" and kept his "citizens," averaging 180, sufficiently clothed, fed and free from fights.

"When we leave Pipe City, there will be no continued organization," Jansen declared. "We'll just go our ways and hunt for jobs wherever we can hope to find them. Our men have been free to go and come as they please, subject to only three regulations: to keep reasonably clean, not to come in drunk and not to talk politics."

DAILY LIFE SIMPLE.

Daily life among the Pipe dwellers, as Jansen describes it, consists of "foraging" for food, clothing and supplies in general.

"That involves enough walking to make a man about ready to turn in," he said. "Supplies collected are turned in to the captains, so there won't be any snitching. It's easier to keep track of 18 captains than 200 men. Each captain is responsible for the cleanliness of his territory and the conduct of the men in it. If he doesn't measure up to the efficient standard, he's fired—which has happened more than once.

"The next day, the man who has been foraging will probably heat water over his camp fire and do his laundry with the aid of a 5-gallon tin can and elbow grease. One of those same cans with a hose attached makes a shower bath, primitive but effective. Five doctors offered us their services, but the worst sickness we have had was a case of poison oak."

TRAINED TO JOB

Jansen, formerly chief of commissary for construction jobs, who has been out of work since last July, denies that he is in any sense an "organizer," even though he chuckles a bit over the success with which he collected supplies, obtained "squatters rights" to the pipes, kept his followers so well behaved that they were immune to police interference, and achieved for Pipe City publicity extended throughout the country and even to Europe.

"There'll be no hunger marching or other demonstration when we leave next month," he declared. "We haven't any theories about anything. We were just hungry and cold and shelterless—and we've scrambled around and got food and fire and a place to sleep for 200 men who valued their freedom of action, didn't want to take orders, but didn't want to starve or freeze either. That's all there is to it.

"Now warm weather's coming, and we'll be on our way."

No 'Gas Hounds' Wanted by Pipe City Residents

POST-ENQ FEB 10 1933

PIPE CITY, Feb. 10. — "Gas hounds keep out" may be the sign posted on the city hall of this city of pipe dwellers at the foot of Nineteenth avenue.

A "gas hound," explained Mayor Dutch Jensen today, is a thirsty gentleman who will go to any lengths for a drink. He will drink varnish, flavoring extract or what have you.

FOUR EXPELLED

Four of them were expelled from Pipe City by Police Chief Frank Sewell, with the aid of Oakland police, who were summoned by the Pipe City city fathers.

"If a man can't behave, he can't live here," was Mayor Jensen's flat pronouncement.

Other news from this community of unemployed men:

Mail addressed to "Pipe City, Oakland, Calif.," is pouring in from all over the country.

The food situation might be worse and, on the other hand, might be better.

ROAD KEPT OPEN

The Smith Lumber company has permitted its private roadway to Pipe City to remain open Sundays, thus earning the gratitude of the citizens. In return, the men have worked on the road and placed guards on the lumber company's lumber piles, Mayor Jensen said. Five hundred automobiles used the road Sunday.

Pipe City's 200 residents are looking forward hopefully to jobs for all in the spring.

Political Upheaval Stirs Residents of 'Pipe City'

TRIBUNE JAN 15 1933

A "political" upheaval shook Pipe City, Oakland's metropolis of concrete dwellers, today.

While one group of Pipe City "citizens" campaigned loud and zealously for their mayoralty candidate, Mayor "Dutch" Jensen, who has served as chief executive these many months, sat firmly in the saddle and issued a decree in which he declared that there would be no election to choose a successor to himself.

The fiat resulted, he said, from an "expression of confidence" overwhelmingly voted by the majority of Pipe City residents.

Olin Hunter, "campaign manager" for Henry Smith, 70, former upholsterer, candidate for mayor of Pipe City, said that the "vote of confidence" didn't mean a thing and that his candidate's hat has been thrown into the Pipe City political ring to remain.

DISSENTERS OUSTED

However, Hunter and eight other backers of Smith are finding campaigning difficult as they were ousted from their concrete dwellings Tuesday night by Jensen, his chief of police, Frank Sewell, and a squad of Oakland police, summoned by Sewell.

The ouster order came just as Smith and his "political advisors" had completed a petition demanding a change in mayors and containing several other "demands" of a dyed-in-the-wool "reform movement." The candidate and his friends left without filing the petition with Pipe City officials.

Under the "reform movement" program as outlined in the petition, the Mayor would serve only a month and would be subject to recall action or impeachment, if, during that period, petitions were circulated against him.

"A Mayor by the people and for the people, subject to investigation by a committee designated by the

people," was one of the major demands of the petition.

Sewell charged Hunter, Smith and the others with being "agitators."

Smith, Hunter and the others charged Mayor Jensen with attempting to set up a dictatorship.

"We demand that Pipe City be governed on sound democratic principles," Smith said.

DEMANDS ANNOUNCED

"Our group is known as the Economy League. Our platform is in line with the spirit of the times.

"First of all, we demand that the mayor be elected by the residents of Pipe City."

Smith said that other "demands" of his group are:

That all funds contributed to Pipe City be placed in a chest for the benefit of the concrete dwellers, that the chest be locked and that purchases of food made with its funds be handled by a committee.

That Pipe City dwellers who are receiving charity from charitable organizations be summarily ousted from their dwellings.

That men who are receiving government pensions be ousted.

ALL ALCOHOL UNDER A BAN BY HOMELESS

Mayor Morcom Visits Unique 'Suburb'; Praises Business- like Conduct of Affairs There

Pipe City — the land of concrete dwellers — will greet the New Year by remaining "dry."

No inhabitant of the city will be allowed to participate in any form of alcoholic drinking.

"Liquor and drunkenness is prohibited by the residents in this community during the New Year double holiday, or at any time of the year, as a matter of fact," Mayor "Dutch" Jensen said.

"Any member of Pipe City may go wherever he pleases in order to celebrate the New Year," but Mayor Jensen said in warning them, "Don't come back unless you are sober, as anyone under the influence of liquor will not be permitted to enter the city."

Mayor Jensen denied that any drunkards or agitators were among the 175 jobless and penniless men living in huge concrete pipes located at the foot of Nineteenth avenue, Oakland.

CITIZENS PAY VISIT.

A group of prominent citizens in the East Bay visited Pipe City during the week end.

On Christmas day 176 hungry, unemployed men were served turkey dinners. Turkey with cranberry sauce, stuffing, beans, fruit and cigarets was the menu, supplied by Dr. Minora K. Kibbe and other friends of Pipe City.

Mayor Fred N. Morcom during the week visited Pipe City and complimented Mayor Jensen on the smoothly operating government. Mayor Morcom later shipped a large order of canned milk to Pipe City.

GIFTS OF FOOD.

Joseph M. Parker, manager of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, was another visitor.

E. L. Belding of the Ernest Wilson Company, and Mrs. Belding, brought down fifty cakes — rare food in these parts!

An unidentified woman gave Pipe City a load of lumber for shacks, and the city supplied sheet iron for sanitary fixtures.

Mayor Jensen issued the following statement:

"Contrary to report, Pipe City men are not planning a hunger March. We are sitting tight until we get jobs. Pipe City is under the supervision of the Big Brothers of the Oakland Elks Club."

Mayor Jensen issued a warning that Pipe City has no solicitors.

———"BUY AMERICAN"——

Cupsies Rob Man

SHELTER URGED FOR 4000 MEN BELIEVED NEEDY

TRIB D-DEC-30-1932

Attorney James Carter Asks Council to Open Exposi- tion Building for Use

Declaring that Pipe City is a "Utopia" for a mere 200 men who wish to live without regulation or interference," Attorney James Carter pleaded last night before the City Council that the Exposition Building be opened to shelter all homeless men, who would be under complete police supervision. Carter estimated their number at 4000.

Mayor Fred N. Morcom recently declared that he and the City Manager had offered to open the Exposition Building to the men of Pipe City but the latter preferred the independence of their present location. Attorney Carter last night declared that he, himself, would like to be in an equally irresponsible position where he would be fed, clothed and bedded by donations and would need do no work or pay no taxes. He argued, however, that this "Utopian" life may become a growing civic problem and recommended that the city start keeping check on its indigents before it becomes generally believed that Oakland is "an easy mark" for itinerants.

"If these people do not wish to place themselves under reasonable regulation, we do not want them here," he said. "A lot of men apparently wish to dictate to the city as to the conditions under which they will live here free of charge."

Mayor Morcom announced that Oakland could not find enough unemployed men to register for work at the state labor camps yesterday. Oakland's quota was 20 men. Only eight men registered.

No action was taken about Carter's request by the council, which also filed a demand from the Alameda County Council of the Socialist Party of America that the Exposition Building be opened to shelter the unemployed. This communication, however, demanded that the unemployed be given "immunity from police surveillance or superintendence, and immunity from prosecution for vagrancy."

176 RESIDE IN PIPE CITY

POST-ENO DEC 30 1932

PIPE CITY, Dec. 30.—Pipe City, the community of concrete pipe dwellers at the foot of Nineteenth avenue, Oakland, will begin the new year with a population of approximately 175.

Noses were counted Christmas day when 176 hungry unemployed men were served turkey dinners. Turkey with cranberry sauce, stuffing, beans, fruit and cigarets was the menu, supplied by Dr. Minora K. Kibbe and other friends of Pipe City.

Other news reported today by Mayor "Dutch" Jensen:

Mayor Fred N. Morcom visited Pipe City and complimented Mayor Jensen on the smoothly operating government. Mayor Morcom later sent a large order of canned milk to Pipe City.

Joseph M. Parker, manager of the Oakland Chamber of Commerce, was another visitor.

E. L. Belding of the Ernest Wilson company and Mrs. Belding brought down 50 cakes—rare food in these parts!

A woman gave Pipe City a load of lumber for shacks and the city supplied sheet iron for sanitary fixtures.

Mayor Jensen added:

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Estuary Pipe City Evicts 9 Rebels

"Dutch" Jensen, the "mayor" of ~~Pipe City~~ on the estuary shore in East Oakland, asked Oakland police to help him maintain tranquility today after a group of nine "malcontents" attempted to overthrow his government and seize the reins.

After an investigation, police decided that Mayor Jensen's charges against the group—embracing a plot to undermine the orderly life of the strange community—were true. They forced nine "undesirables" to leave the refuge.

DESTITUTE IN STRUGGLE TO EXIST

POST-ENQ DEC 3 1932

By H. R. Hill

PIPE CITY, Dec. 3.—We've heard of cast concrete houses before but we never knew they were round.

We've always known concrete was hard but we never knew just how hard it can be.

When Old Man Sun poked his head over the hills this morning we crawled out of our concrete "house" in Pipe City, near the foot of Nineteenth avenue, Oakland, and offered up a prayer of thanks that we were only a visitor and not a permanent resident.

Pipe City, also known as Miseryville, has 180 inhabitants. To qualify for citizenship you must be jobless, homeless, hungry, and preferably shoeless, coatless and hatless.

IN PIPE CITY

If one also is discouraged, lonely, filled with a terrible feeling of hopelessness and helplessness, one's qualifications are that much stronger. One belongs.

Not all of Pipe City's inhabitants are that way. Some of them have learned that a philosophical attitude helps. One may tinge his philosophy with a drop of irony, even bitterness, and the concrete may seem less hard and the blankets less thin and the mulligan less watery.

But it takes a lot of philosophy, you bet, to make concrete either soft or warm!

THANKFUL FOR PIPES

"Put newspapers under your blankets," advised "Dutch" Jensen, "mayor" of Pipe City and quite the jolliest citizen of the 180. "That's what we always do."

"Where do you get papers?"

"Where do you get anything. Rustle 'em, of course."

Say what you will of concrete, the Miseryites are thankful for those rows and rows of big concrete pipes. They are grateful to the owner of those huge pipes who permits Pipe City to exist, who even pays for the city water the Miseryites are welcome to use free and freely. The owner is a corporation but not of the soulless brand!

LACKS BLANKETS

"I've seen worse places," philosophized 78-year-old Sam Smith, the patriarch of Pipe City.

"I wish," yearned 70-year-old J. O'Donnell in the pipe next to ours, "I could get a job. I'm a-gettin' soft."

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LACKS BLANKETS

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"I wish," yearned 70-year-old J. O'Donnell in the pipe next to ours, "I could get a job. I'm a-gettin' soft."

"What's your line, Dad?"

"I'm a lumberjack. Piled lumber the last 10 years, after I got too old to work in a sawmill. Kinda cold t'night, ain't it? Wonder if Joe Raimez rustled him any blankets."

"Who's Joe?"

"Joe—the feller without any blankets. Some of the boys lent him one or two last night but 'twant enough."

WANT WORK

Dad O'Donnell is old and work-worn—nearly four times as old as the youngest resident of Pipe City. The youngest was a theater operator until things went haywire, and he took to the open road.

Young and old, they all want work. Work of any variety, one hour, one day or what have you.

Frank Sewell is a truck driver and, his fellow citizens say, a good rustler. Frank brings home armfuls of food and when he does there's a feast. Particularly for the old fellows, too old to rustle for themselves.

Pipe City is that way—no organization, no controlling clique, but a rare spirit of cooperation.

You might even call it brotherly love, but the Miseryites would snort if you did.

"Hell, you can't let a man starve, can you?"

RUSTLE FOOD

Fruit and hot vegetables for breakfast. We nearly said "fresh fruit," but that would be too generous. But it was good; anything's good when the old belt is drawn to the last notch.

Go down to the markets before daylight, and you can rustle all sorts of foodstuffs. The Miseryites do, and so do numerous others. Knock on doors and ask for clothing. You may get it and you may not. If you get it, you've nothing to worry about any more. If you don't, you're no worse off than you were, so again you've nothing to worry about.

Over by Pipe 66 a lively discussion was going on.

"I tell you I read it in a paper I picked up."

"What did it say?"

"It said the county was figuring to vote \$3,000,000 for the unemployed."

"I gosh!" exclaimed a voice. "Maybe we'll all get jobs—or regular eats anyway. I gosh!"

JOBS AHEAD

The word spread through Pipe City—"jobs ahead!"

The Miseryites are working folk, for the most part. They are the men who harvest the crops, pick the fruit, pile the lumber, drive the trucks. White collar men are there, too, even if there is not actually a white collar in sight.

Vote the relief bonds, and Misery-

...citizens say, a good
village will become a ghost city overnight.

"Before you go," said "Rustler" Sewell, "do you reckon you could look at Jim's shoes? Maybe somebody would——?"

So Jim came, and then all the others. Ragged, shivering, the soles of their feet rubbing the cold earth, they related their greatest needs.

NEEDS TOLD

Here they are, with the sizes:

Frank Sewell, shirt 17, socks 10½, cap 7½; J. "Dad" O'Donnell, hat 6¾, overalls or pants 36; James Jans, shoes 10; Jim Hood, overalls or pants 36; Mickie Yazvac, shoes 8½, pants 33; Joe Raimez, quilts or blankets; O. Orozco, pants 36, shirt 16; John Dent, shoes 10, pants 34; Charles Gallagher, pants or overalls 34, shoes 7, hat 7½.

William Mitchell, pants 32; shoes 8, underwear 42. Mitchell, by the way, is a rancher and 64 years old.

C. F. Gallagher, underwear 44, shirt 16; J. Wilson, shoes 9, socks 11; C. Ocha, pants 34; Sam Smith, pants 36, shirt 16, shoes 8; Ed Bouviolle, shoes 10, underwear; William Moris, shirt 15, shoes 8; "Mayor" Dutch Hansen, pants 42, coat plenty big; Ed Hogan, shoes 8, underwear 42, shirt 17; John Brown, underwear 40, pants 32, shoes 9; Joe Skibsted, underwear 30, socks 9, shirt 14½; Charles Murphy, coat 40, underwear 42, bedding; Charles Evers, work shirt 16½, underwear 46, pants 40, bedding.

Add tobacco. Tobacco above everything!

"If I could get me some Five Brothers," yearned Dad O'Donnell, "it would ease the concrete considerable."

To reach Pipe City, drive to the foot of Nineteenth avenue, turn right. There's a flag waving over the village. An American flag, religiously lowered at sundown and raised at daylight.

Radio, Theater Passes Given To Pipe City

POST-ENQ DEC 9 - 1932

PIPE CITY, Dec. 9.—Pipe City has a radio!

Only yesterday the "city fathers" asked for a radio, that the cold nights in the big concrete pipes might be made more pleasant.

Last night Amos and Andy and all the other entertainers of the air were in Pipe City, located at the foot of Nineteenth avenue, via Pipe City's new radio.

Donor was a radio dealer at 436 Eleventh street.

Offering another way for the unemployed workers to while away the evenings, a theater at 1034 Broadway presented Pipe City with passes good until Dec. 15.

Both the radio and the passes came to Pipe City through George Berger, one of its most active citizens, himself in business in Oakland until his business was swept away.

Pipe City's population today was reduced by six. The six were summarily ejected by "Mayor" Dutch Jensen and his staff as being objectionable persons.

"All we ask of our people is that they conduct themselves properly," declared Mayor Jensen. "We are all in the same boat—out of jobs and broke, and sleeping in concrete pipes.

"But we shall cling to our self-respect.

"The members of this community who fail to observe this one rule must go elsewhere."

PIPE CITY'S RESIDENTS GRATEFUL

POST-ENQ DEC 8 - 1932

PIPE CITY, Dec. 8.—"Mayor" Dutch Jensen of Pipe City today issued a proclamation of thanks to the people of Oakland who so generously contributed to the welfare of the Miseryites.

Pipe City, with a population of 180 and located at the foot of Nineteenth avenue, Oakland, learned that Oakland has a heart.

A story about Pipe City published in The Post-Enquirer last Saturday was the means of bringing warm clothing and considerable food to the 180 unemployed men who have "holed up" in unused concrete pipes.

FOOD DONATED

"Please thank the people of Oakland for us," said "Mayor" Jensen. "Thank them from our hearts. We have not the words to express our appreciation."

One donation consisted of 100 pounds of rice; another, 100 pounds of flour. Large or small they were welcomed by the men who are both penniless and jobless.

Mayor Jensen, who is a large man, even succeeded in getting a suit that would fit him.

The Elks club brought a tent and it was promptly turned into a commissary.

A newsreel cameraman filmed Pipe City and its people, and was so moved by what he saw that he left \$10 for food. Mayor Jensen and a committee converted this donation into 70 pounds of coffee, a luxury here.

ONE RESIDENT GONE

J. "Dad" O'Donnell, 70, whose picture was in the paper last Saturday, has disappeared. The story is that a sister who had not seen her brother for years, and who had no idea of his whereabouts, saw the picture and happily packed him off to her home.

One great need of Pipe City is a radio. A battery radio, because there is no electricity. No matter how old or how decrepit, just so it "works." The Miseryites have trouble enough scrambling for food and clothing without even thinking of amusement.

Mayor Jensen believes it would add to the men's morale to have radio programs in the evening.

Morale Pipe City has not lacked so far. The citizens want to keep it that way.

CONCRETE PIPE HOUSES A CITY FOR JOBLESS

180 of Oakland's Homeless
Men Find Shelter at 'Pipe
City' and Elect Own Mayor

Pipe City—the city that threatens to become a ghost—yesterday through its "mayor," "Dutch" Jensen, issued a proclamation.

The proclamation was one of thanks to the people of Oakland who so generously contributed to the welfare of the Miseryites.

Pipe City, with a population of 180 unemployed men, is located at the foot of Nineteenth avenue, Oakland. They are sheltered in unused concrete pipes.

"Please thank the people of Oakland for us," said Mayor Jensen. "Thank them from our hearts. We have not the words to express our appreciation."

Clothing, food, a radio and theater passes have been donated to the penniless and jobless inhabitants of the city by Oakland merchants and citizens.

TENT FOR COOKING.

The Elks' Club brought a tent and it was promptly turned into a commissary. Doner of the radio came from a dealer at 346 Eleventh street. Offering another way for the unemployed workers to while away the evenings, a theater at 1034 Broadway presented Pipe City with passes good until December 15.

J. "Dad" O'Donnell, 70, one of the inhabitants, has disappeared, Mayor Jensen said. The story is that a sister who had not seen her brother for years, and who had no idea of his whereabouts, saw the picture on the screen in a newsreel filed by a cameraman who visited Pipe City, and happily packed him off to her home.

NO "BUMS" PERMITTED.

Pipe City's population yesterday was reduced by six. The six were summarily ejected by Mayor Jensen and his staff as being objectionable persons.

"All we ask of our people is that they conduct themselves properly," declared Mayor Jensen. "We are all in the same boat—out of jobs and broke and sleeping in concrete pipes.

"But we shall cling to our self-respect. The members of this community who fail to observe this one rule must go elsewhere."

PIPE CITY FOLK WANT TO STAY

TRIB C DEC 24 1932

Dwellers of Pipe City at the foot of Nineteenth Avenue do not wish to be moved to lodging in the exposition building but prefer to remain where they are, according to City Manager Ossian E. Carr.

Carr wrote a letter to Mrs. C. D. Wild, 1609 Grand Avenue, who had suggested that the city fit up the exposition building or the Fabiola Hospital Building to house the Pipe City dwellers and other unemployed. Carr said that he visited Pipe City personally and was informed emphatically that Pipe City residents do not wish to go to the exposition building.

Carr also said that the Fabiola Hospital Building will probably be torn down.

Material For 'Pipe City' To Be Given By City

TRIB D DEC 22 1932

Walter E. Gibson, superintendent of street cleaning and garbage disposal, was ordered today by City Manager Ossian E. Carr to give whatever material may be needed to the residents of "Pipe City," at the foot of Nineteenth Avenue, by the City of Oakland. Gibson was prohibited, however, from giving financial aid to the residents.

According to Gibson, the dwellers in the big pipes form a self-helping colony of 200 persons with a mayor and everything, and with a ban against intoxication, begging, and uncleanness. He reported that the residents and residences in the big pipes are in good condition and are kept clean but need sanitary conveniences. To improve conditions he recommended:

Burlap or sheet metal to cover the ends of the big pipes so that cold winds will not blow through them; sanitary conveniences; old belting for shoe soles for the residents; old buckets, brooms, lanterns and planks, to cleanse and illuminate the settlement at all times.

Yule Dinner

At 'Pipe City'

TRIB B DEC 18 1932

Residents of "Pipe City" on East Twelfth Street will have a real Christmas dinner, Laura S. Blaine, newly elected commander of the women's auxiliary to Oakland Chapter No. 7, Disabled American Veterans, has announced.

Mrs. Blaine, who has been appointed chairman of a committee in charge of preparing the dinner, visited unemployed men living in "Pipe City" yesterday. The dinner will be served the latter part of the week.

New officers of the auxiliary will be installed on January 6 at a joint installation ceremony with Oakland Chapter No. 7, D. A. V., by State Adjutant Adeline Sousa. Officers who were elected Friday night are commander, Mrs. Blaine; senior vice commander, Mariana Baosberg; junior vice commander, Queena Boyce; treasurer, Helen Meyers; adjutant, Nellie Brown, and chaplain, Mary Putney.

Mayor Defends City In 'Pipe City' Housing

Mayor Fred N. Morcom announced to the City Council today that the city need accept no blame for not housing the unemployed of Pipe City in the Auditorium or Exposition Building.

"The city offered the Exposition Building to them, but they did not want it," said the Mayor. "They prefer to live without any authority over them and without any municipal regulations as to when they shall go to bed or get up.

"They seem comparatively happy, and agitation in favor of giving them the Exposition Building certainly has not come from them."
